

Learning Translation while editing Wikipedia

A university project by Wikimedia Spain

What?

- Translation and interpretation students of Universitat Jaume I of Castelló learn translation while editing Wikipedia.
- This project started in 2010. That academic year students translated Good articles from English to Spanish.

How?

- Students translate articles from one Wikipedia to another, organized in groups.
- Before editing, students attend a workshop about Wikipedia.
- Articles are chosen by participants, according to different guidelines. For example, to translate from English to Spanish ADELEX ANALYSER (ADA) software is used.
- Students edit the articles on Wikipedia, not on the main space. Before, they edited on a wikiproject page, but now they edit on their sandbox to use the Visual Editor.
- All articles are checked by the other groups before being evaluated by external experts.
- When all articles are ready, they are moved to the main space.

Why?

- Students are motivated. They write an article which could be read by everybody for the first time.
- Their work is useful for society.
- Students learn to work in groups and about free knowledge.

Results

- 2 universities involved (UJI and UM)
- 4 languages: Catalan, English, German and Spanish
- 4 professors
- +450 new editors and 100 new articles
- Similar project in Durham University (UK) for Arabic and English